

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial. No. 09/358,738

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A method of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprising an adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; and (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement.

Claims 34-36 (Canceled)

37. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 33, wherein said step of providing an instrument comprises the step of providing a solenoid coil which defines the instrument portion and a meter for directly reading coil inductance, the inductance of the coil is directly related to magnetic permeability of the microparticles, and the magnetic permeability of the microparticles comprising a magnetic characteristic of the microparticles.

38. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 37, wherein said subjecting step comprises the steps of:

determining the inductance of the solenoid coil without microparticles at each of the

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial No. 09/358,738

different temperatures; and

recording the inductance of the coil at each temperature.

39. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 38, wherein said making step comprises the steps of:

placing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles within the coil; and

measuring the inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

40. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 39, wherein said correcting step comprises the steps of:

measuring the temperature of the coil containing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles; and

subtracting the inductance of the coil without microparticles at a temperature corresponding to the measured temperature from the measured inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

41. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 3.7 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

42. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 11.1 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

43. (Currently amended) A method of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprising an adhesive composition, said method

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial. No. 09/358,738

comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; and (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement.

44. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 43, wherein said step of providing an instrument comprises the step of providing a solenoid coil and a meter for directly reading coil inductance, the inductance of the coil is directly related to magnetic permeability of the microparticles, and the magnetic permeability of the microparticles comprising a magnetic characteristic of the microparticles.

45. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 44, further comprising the steps of:
determining the inductance of the solenoid coil without microparticles at each of different temperatures; and
recording the inductance of the coil at each temperature.

46. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 45, wherein said making step comprises the steps of:
placing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles within the coil; and
measuring the inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

47. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 46, wherein said correcting step comprises the steps of:
measuring the temperature of the coil containing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles; and
subtracting the inductance of the coil without microparticles at a temperature

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial. No. 09/358,738

corresponding to the measured temperature from the measured inductance of the coil containing the composition.

48. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 47, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 3.7 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

49. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 47, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 11.1 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

Claims 50-55 (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, further comprising of measuring~~ a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the level of stress in the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.

57. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, further comprising of measuring~~ a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial. No. 09/358,738

the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the volume or quantity of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.

58. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, wherein the~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprises comprising a first composition containing the microparticles and a second composition mixed with the first composition, said method further comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the volume or quantity of the first composition from the magnetic characteristic.

59. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, wherein the~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprises comprising a first composition containing the microparticles and a second composition mixed with the first composition, said method further comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining a ratio of an amount of the first composition to an amount of a second composition from the magnetic characteristic.

60. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 33, further comprising~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles

Attorney Docket 53321USA1A
Serial. No. 09/358,738

being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (f) determining the volume or quantity of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.

61. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 33, ~~further comprising~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (f) determining the level of stress in the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.